Appl. No. 10/646,167 Prel. Amdt. dated Feb. 16, 2004

P. . .

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

By the present amendment, the section entitled U.S. GOVERNMENT RIGHTS has been added to the specification.

No fee is believed to be due as a result of this Preliminary Amendment. Should the Commissioner determine that a fee is due, he is hereby authorized to charge said fee to Deposit Account No. 21-0279.

Respectfully submitted,

John Joseph Occhiato et al.

Barry L. Kelmachter

BACHMÁN & LaPOINTE, P.C.

Req. No. 29,999

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Date: February 16, 2004

I, Nicole Motzer, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on February 16, 2004.